

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

10/780,706

Examiner

THANH T. VU

Applicant(s)

CRAWFORD, JAMES

Art Unit

2175

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amenment filed on 03/26/2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 52-62, and 64-80.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This communication is responsive to Amendment, filed 03/26/2008.

Claims 52-81 are pending in this application. In the Amendment, claims 1-51 were cancelled, and claims 52-81 were added.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jeremy J. Monaldo on 07/02/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

52. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for displaying an image, the method comprising:

accessing an image, the image having a display size and a first display clarity;

obscuring the clarity of the image to create an obscured version of the image, wherein obscuring the clarity of the image to create the obscured version of the image comprises obscuring the clarity of the image to create the obscured version of the image without human intervention;

causing display of the obscured version of the image to a user, the displayed obscured version of the image having the same display size as the image and a second display clarity that is lower than the first display clarity of the image;

causing display of a message to the user indicating that the obscured version of the image is displayed to the user to enable the user to determine whether the image is objectionable without having to view the image at the first display clarity;

receiving, from the user, user input indicating a willingness to enhance the clarity of the obscured version of the image; and

in response to the user input, causing display of an enhanced version of the image to the user, the displayed enhanced version of the image having the same display size as the image and the obscured version of the image, and having ~~the~~ a third display clarity that is higher than the second display clarity of the obscured version of the image.

63. (Cancelled)

68. (Currently Amended) at least one computer-readable storage medium storing at least one computer program, the at least one computer program having instructions for:

accessing an image, the image having a display size and a first display clarity;

obscuring the clarity of the image to create an obscured version of the image, wherein obscuring the clarity of the image to create the obscured version of the image comprises obscuring the clarity of the image to create the obscured version of the image without human intervention;

causing display of the obscured version of the image to a user, the displayed obscured version of the image having the same display size as the image and a second display clarity that is lower than the first display clarity of the image;

causing display of a message to the user indicating that the obscured version of the image is displayed to the user to enable the user to determine whether the image is objectionable without having to view the image at the first display clarity;

receiving, from the user, user input indicating a willingness to enhance the clarity of the obscured version of the image; and

in response to the user input, causing display of an enhanced version of the image to the user, the displayed enhanced version of the image having the same display size as the image and the obscured version of the image, and having ~~the~~ a third display clarity that is higher than the second display clarity of the obscured version of the image.

75. (Currently Amended) a computer system comprising:

means for accessing an image, the image having a display size and a first display clarity;

means for obscuring the clarity of the image to create an obscured version of the image,
wherein obscuring the clarity of the image to create the obscured version of the image comprises obscuring the clarity of the image to create the obscured version of the image without human intervention;

means for causing display of the obscured version of the image to a user, the displayed obscured version of the image having the same display size as the image and a second display clarity that is lower than the first display clarity of the image;

means for causing display of a message to the user indicating that the obscured version of the image is displayed to the user to enable the user to determine whether the image is objectionable without having to view the image at the first display clarity;

means for receiving, from the user, user input indicating a willingness to enhance the clarity of the obscured version of the image; and

means for, in response to the user input, causing display of an enhanced version of the image to the user, the displayed enhanced version of the image having the same display size as the image and the obscured version of the image, and having ~~the~~ a third display clarity that is higher than the second display clarity of the obscured version of the image.

76. (Currently Amended) a computer-implemented method for displaying an image, the method comprising:

accessing an image, the image having a display size and a first display clarity;

obscuring the clarity of the image to create a first obscured version of the image, wherein obscuring the clarity of the image to create the first obscured version of the image comprises obscuring the clarity of the image to create the first obscured version of the image without human intervention;

causing display of the first obscured version of the image to a user, the first obscured version of the image having the same display size as the image and a second display clarity that is lower than the first display clarity of the image;

subsequent to causing display of the first obscured version of the image, receiving, from the user, first user input indicating a willingness to enhance the clarity of the first obscured version of the image;

in response to the first user input, causing display of a second obscured version of the image to the user, the second obscured version of the image having the same display size as the image and the first obscured version of the image, and having a third display clarity that is higher than the second display clarity of the first obscured version of the image and that is lower than the first display clarity of the image;

subsequent to causing display of the second obscured version of the image, receiving, from the user, second user input indicating a willingness to enhance the clarity of the second obscured version of the image; and

in response to the second user input, causing display of a third version of the image to the user, the third version of the image having the same display size as the image, the first obscured version of the image, and the second obscured version of the image, and having a fourth display clarity that is higher than the second display clarity of the first obscured version of the image and that is higher than the third display clarity of the second obscured version of the image.

81. (Cancelled)

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 52-62, 64-80 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art either alone or in combination doesn't teach the limitations of "obscuring the clarity of the image to create an obscured version of the image, wherein obscuring the clarity of the image to create the obscured version of the image comprises obscuring the clarity of the image to create the obscured version of the image without human intervention; causing display

of the obscured version of the image to a user, the displayed obscured version of the image having the same display size as the image and a second display clarity that is lower than the first display clarity of the image”; and “receiving, from the user, user input indicating a willingness to enhance the clarity of the obscured version of the image; in response to the user input, causing display of an enhanced version of the image to the user, the displayed enhanced version of the image having the same display size as the image and the obscured version of the image, and having a third display clarity that is higher than the second display clarity of the obscured version of the image” as recited in claims 52, 68, and 75 in combination with the other claimed features.

The prior art either alone or in combination doesn't teach the limitations of “obscuring the clarity of the image to create a first obscured version of the image, wherein obscuring the clarity of the image to create the first obscured version of the image comprises obscuring the clarity of the image to create the first obscured version of the image without human intervention;

causing display of the first obscured version of the image to a user, the first obscured version of the image having the same display size as the image and a second display clarity that is lower than the first display clarity of the image;

subsequent to causing display of the first obscured version of the image, receiving, from the user, first user input indicating a willingness to enhance the clarity of the first obscured version of the image;

in response to the first user input, causing display of a second obscured version of the image to the user, the second obscured version of the image having the same display size as the image and the first obscured version of the image, and having a third display clarity that is higher than the second display clarity of the first obscured version of the image and that is lower than

the first display clarity of the image” as recited in claim 76 in combination with the other claimed features.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Inquiries

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THANH T. VU whose telephone number is (571)272-4073. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon- Fri 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, William L. Bashore can be reached on (571) 272-4088. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/Thanh T. Vu/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2175